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ABSTRACT

As increasing numbers of culturally and linguistically diverse young children enter preschool through second grade classrooms, teachers are faced with complex challenges as they struggle to meet children's needs. This document is comprised of the first two parts of a three-program videotape training series designed for preservice teachers, child care providers, and teaching staff in preschool through second grade classrooms. Program 1 of the series addresses feelings and concerns teachers express about the lack of training, preparation, and support for working with children new to this culture. Program 2 of the series teaches nonverbal communication strategies to help convey meaning to children who are learning English. The trainer's guides summarize the accompanying videotapes and contain discussion questions, interactive exercises, and viewer's handouts. The first videotape, "I Don't Know Where To Start" (33-minutes), shows how stressful entering school in a new culture can be and presents strategies to help children feel welcome and safe by nurturing a sense of trust and belonging. Videotaped classroom sequences demonstrate strategies to contribute to a sense of inclusion and acceptance. The second videotape, "Getting Your Message Across" (35-minutes), opens with Russian and Vietnamese speakers presenting the same material with and without the use of body language, gestures, visuals, and objects to illustrate the importance of nonverbal communication strategies. Videotaped classroom sequences demonstrate the use of gestures to convey more complex ideas, visuals to illustrate words and concepts, modeling to show what is expected of children, and respite activities allowing children to restore energy for language-based tasks. Both trainer's guides contain references. (KB)

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